



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Release APRIL 28, 1949

MORE DUCK HUNTERS IN 1948 BOOST WATERFOWL KILL TOTAL

Hunter take of wild ducks and geese during the 1948-49 migratory waterfowl shooting season has been estimated at about 17 million for the United States and nearly 50,000 for Alaska, Director Albert M. Day of the Fish and Wildlife Service announced today.

"A gain of 27 percent in the number of duck hunters who were afield during the season plus an increase in the number of days of hunting brought, as the inevitable result, a rise in waterfowl kill of nearly 48 percent over 1947," stated Mr. Day.

In addition, the non-retrieved loss for the season, which is only a part of the over-all crippling loss, was estimated by the Service to amount to approximately 3 million in the States and about 5,000 in Alaska.

Statistics compiled by the Service on the waterfowl kill are based on recently-developed methods which combine duck-stamp sales, field bag checks to determine the daily per hunter, and post-season contacts with hunters to ascertain the number of days each hunter was afield during the season, Mr. Day explained.

The average daily bag per hunter was slightly less than 2 birds, while the average seasonal bag was about 9 birds. The number of days hunted by the average hunter for the season was approximately 5.

The data derived from post-season hunter checks indicates that out of every six ducks brought down within sight of the hunter, one was not retrieved. This is only a part of the crippling loss because many ducks are hard-hit but succeed in going some distance before dropping.

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